


BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-338-C - ORDER NO. 2003-213

APRIL 2, 2003

IN RE: Proceeding to Review Verizon's Cost Methodology for Pricing of Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs).) ORDER APPROVING) REQUEST ON ) PROCEDURAL) SCHEDULE
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a Request from Verizon South, Inc. (Verizon) for delay in the establishment of a procedural schedule in the instant docket. The present proceeding was derived from Commission Order No. 2002-450, Docket No. 2002-66-C, which involved arbitration of certain issues pertaining to the terms and conditions of an interconnection agreement between HTC Communications, Inc. and Verizon South, Inc. As a result of the arbitration, several issues appeared which the Commission determined it not appropriate to address in the arbitration process, but by the establishment of a generic proceeding. One such issue found by the Commission was the cost methodology for pricing of unbundled network elements (UNEs) of Verizon, thus, the creation of the present Docket, Docket No. 2002-338-C. Verizon's request was addressed by the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 25, 2003.

By letter filed with the Commission January 10, 2003, Verizon requested that the Commission schedule the filing of the Company's cost methodology results for July 2003. Verizon states that there are certain issues of which it would like for the

Commission to be aware before establishing a procedural schedule in the instant case. According to Verizon, the Company recently concluded the development of a new, Internet-based, integrated costing model to insure consistency of a unified cost methodology for use across all regulatory jurisdictions. Verizon asserts that the new model, called VZCost, will provide a more flexible, hands on technology platform that will offer Internet online access, straightforward operation, and easier-to-understand, easy to access data display. Other benefits of the model, according to Verizon, are: (1) the model will offer superior approaches to modeling the local loop network, above and beyond better customer location inputs; (2) the model will more easily integrate consistent technology mix between loop and switching UNEs; and (3) the model's web-based platform will reduce dependence on the computing power of an individual's desktop computers, making it more readily accessible.


In support of its request, Verizon cites the Company's 2003 workload that currently requires cost study results and the required filing dates of these studies. Verizon's workload schedule reflects filings due for twenty-nine (29) States, with filing dates ranging from the months of January to August. Verizon asserts that these studies require as much as eight weeks to complete, and a full-blown UNE study, which will be required in South Carolina, will necessitate an entire eight weeks to conclude. Lastly, Verizon states that it will be unable to provide the information needed for the Company's cost methodology filing in this matter due to the overwhelming demands of preparing other studies as shown by its 2003 workload schedule; therefore, Verizon respectfully

requests that the Commission schedule the filing of its cost methodology results in July 2003.

Upon consideration of this request, the Commission finds and concludes that it should be granted for all the reasons cited above. Further, a proceeding on this matter shall not be set until after the filing of the cost methodology results.

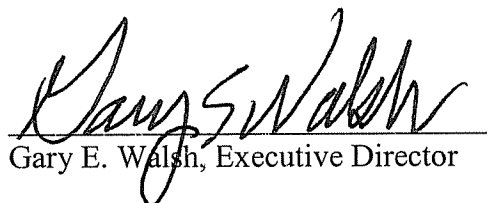
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of this Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)